



FACT SHEET

Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) Background Information

The California Bureau of Automotive Repair's Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) offers two options to help California consumers whose vehicles fail their biennial (every other year) Smog Check: repair assistance and vehicle retirement.

Motorists who intend to apply to the Consumer Assistance Program should not have any repairs performed on their vehicle. The program is limited to available funds.

Following is some basic background information about CAP.

Vehicle Retirement

- Eligible consumers whose vehicle fails its biennial (every other year) Smog Check inspection can voluntarily retire the vehicle and receive \$1,000, based on available funds, through CAP.
- Began operation: July 1, 2000
 - Program suspended: January 1, 2002
 - Program restarted: September 1, 2004
- Vehicles retired from July 2000 through March 2005: Approximately 35,411
- Estimated total emissions reduction (hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides) for completed years of program to date: 1,617 tons annually.
- Percentage of vehicles that were gross polluters: 69% (gross polluters emit at least two times the emissions allowed for a particular model, and in many cases, much more)
- Average model year retired: 1988
- Number of contracted dismantler sites statewide: 32

Repair Assistance

- CAP helps eligible consumers who wish to keep their cars by providing up to \$500 worth of emissions-related repairs from the state to help them pass their biennial Smog Check inspection.
- The co-payment is only \$20 for income-eligible consumers.
- The co-payment is \$100 for consumers directed to Test-Only stations for their biennial Smog Check.
- Began operation: July 1, 2000
- Vehicles repaired from July 2000 through March 2005: Approximately 124,580
- Estimated total emissions reduction (hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides) for completed years of program to date: 1,342 tons annually
- Percentage of vehicles that were Gross Polluters: 41%
- Average model year repaired: 1987
- Average repair cost: \$325.